

Ruling On Women Hating Plural Marriage

From the fatwas of Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen for al-Da'wah magazine

[Q]: What is the ruling on a woman hating polygyny because of jealousy, since jealousy is something natural in women, and we read of the jealousy of 'Aa'ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) concerning the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)? So where do we stand? I have learned from reading some books that hating one of the rulings of sharee'ah is tantamount to kufr.

[A]: Praise be to Allaah.

A woman's jealousy concerning her husband is something that is innate and natural, and you cannot tell a woman, "Do not feel jealous over your husband." If a person dislikes something even though it is prescribed in sharee'ah, that does not adversely affect him, so long as he does not hate the fact that it is prescribed. Allaah says:

"Jihaad (holy fighting in Allaah's Cause) is ordained for you (Muslims) though you dislike it, and it may be that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you like a thing which is bad for you..." [al-Baqarah 2:216]

The woman who feels jealous does not hate the fact that Allaah has allowed her husband to marry more than one woman, but she hates to have a co-wife. There is an obvious difference between the two matters. Hence I hope that the brother who has asked this question, and other people, will think carefully about matters and not rush to judgement; I hope that they will recognize the subtle differences whereby rulings differ.